Amoy Sept 14th 184

Dear Brethren

Though we cannot yet tell you of wonderful displays of God's power & grace in the conversion of multitudes in this or in any other city of China, you will listen with interest to a few words from a field of labor so distant & so important. God's dealings towards us all in this city have been during the present season very kind in every respect. The health of the place among foreigners & natives has been such as greatly to strengthen, what has been for a good while past a growing confidence in the salubrity of the city & neighborhood.. One of our number is in feeble health, Mrs. Alex. Stronach, of the London Missy. Socy. but her disease is of long standing, on account of which she was advised to go home from Singapore, & a disease to which there is no special tendency in any part of China, the liver complaint. — For so small a company very many changes have taken place among us within a year. Just a year ago Mr. Pohlman returned from Canton, after an absence of four months for the benefit of his eyes. A few days afterwards Mr. Alex. Stronach, wife & sister arrived from the Straits. In Decr. I was compelled to resort to Canton for the sake of my eyes, ~~&~~ where I remained nearly seven months, obtaining considerable relief, though by no means an entire cure. In February Dr. Cumming left us on a visit to the U. States. In May Mr. John Stronach started to join the Convention at Shanghai for the translation of the N. Test. — Aug. 19th Mr. & Mrs. Doty & Mr. Talmage of the Am. Board arrived & a few days afterwards Mr. & Mrs. Peet, who had come here in the Spring, left us to join Mr. Johnson at Foo-chow-foo. Mrs. Stronach for the sake of her own health & to take her children home to school, will leave for England in two or three months. — We are now on the ground Messrs Pohlman, Talmage, Doty & Mrs. Doty of the Am. Board, I

proper consecration to the service of our blessed Lord, can you come to any other conclusion than that eight or ten or more of the present First Class ought certainly to go to the heathen. I have been glad to hear that an increase of Missionary Spirit has taken place in the Seminary and I do not know how great this increase has been, may it be greater

Alex. Stronach Mrs. S. & Miss S. of the London Society, & Mr. Lloyd & myself of our own Board.- Mr. John Stronach may be absent many months, as the work of revision promises to be a very tedious one.- We have now three principal places open for preaching every afternoon & twice on the Sabbath. In another place a Sabbath exercise is held, & during the week two Bible classes, & on the first Monday of the month the Monthly concert.- On Tuesday of each week a meeting for women is held in Mr. Stronach's house, at present but thinly attended, there being no lady acquainted with the language so as to be able to visit & converse with them.- In the three Chapels the Audiences are very various,- from ten to sixty or seventy, & equally varied in interest, being sometimes listless & restless, at other times encouraging greatly, ~~encouraging~~ by silent & strict attention. In these chapels we meet with persons from all the surrounding country for many miles, so that excellent opportunities for judicious tract distribution are constantly offered.- The only regular Audience meets in Mr. Pohlman's Chapel, & consists of the Old men who are members of the Church, teachers, other persons employed by us, & the Scholars of a day school of about twenty boys.- Mr. Lloyd & myself have a chapel on the main street, a convenient room of 45 by 15 ft. open, as stated above, daily, to which we go by turns. We have occasionally been encouraged by seeing the same person coming several times & giving close attention to what was said, but no case of permanent serious inquiry has yet come under our notice.- We feel ourselves not a little hindered in conducting the exercises to the edification of hearers, by our want of acquaintance with the Character - the written language; weakness of eyes having for a year & a half in the case of one of us, & nearly two years

above all permanent.- Mr. Lloyd unites with me in kindest Christian salutations to all & in the desire to be affectionately remembered to all the in the case of the other prevents all attention to any thing but the colloquial. — There are however two or three cases of inquirers who give some reason to hope that they are seriously seeking the truth. — The Church members are at present four — two of them the Old men who were baptized by Mr. Pohlman 18 months ago, & who continue to walk faithfully, monuments of the power of grace to change the hearts even of aged idolaters. They have in one way & another suffered considerable petty persecution among their friends. — The other two are teachers. One of them was admitted to the Church by Mr. John Stronach several years ago at Singapore. He afterwards for a time apostatized. Last year, after having been ~~at~~ his native village for some time, he came to Amoy, professing repentance, & gave so good an account of sincerity that after some trial he was again received by Mr. Stronach to Church privileges. He has been sent into his native district with some tracts to publish the gospel. He first attempted to learn this dialect but not succeeding well, as an only alternative, the experiment of sending him to preach among his own people, away from the supervision of foreign missionaries was ~~tho~~ tried. The second teacher was baptized at Bankok. He came here after the Chinese part of the Mission of the Am. Bd. at Bankok was broken up last year. He promises to be a useful man — giving very satisfactory evidence of piety, & having some ability in preaching. He is now temporarily absent at his native village. Besides him then, we have now here four who are able to do something in the way of preaching but in a very imperfect manner. One of them, Mr. Pohlman, has been greatly disabled for full two years by soreness of eyes. He would probably go home at once for a time, were his colleagues prepared to assume

Salutations to all Professors! — May the God of grace & peace be with you —
Yours &c. H. A. Brown

his duties, & even as it is he will probably find it needful for him to go away very long.— Mr. John Stronach will be back in the course of perhaps six months.— Mr. Young now absent in England, & our best speaker, will possibly be back next year, & Dr. Cumming our next best, by the close of next year. In the mean time it is not unlikely that a temporary absence will be found necessary in my own case. My eyes are still far from being fully restored, & in accordance with urgent medical advice given it may yet be found requisite to leave the field again for a time. I write little & read much less— almost none;— My then volunteering this letter I am moved by the desire, & a faint hope, thereby to aid in increasing the number from among you my brethren ~~who~~ of those who will give themselves to the foreign work. I see that we are a small number in the midst of this city, very small in the midst of the hundreds of thousands of this island, & Oh how very small to carry the bread of life to the thronging myriads elsewhere within our reach.— Our stay here too is very uncertain. The history of the past year is like that of other years. Who knows what may be the result of the next twelve months?— I have said nothing about Canton & Ningpo— nothing about India or other fields. For the present I lay the claims of Amoy before you. I earnestly entreat you to examine again the question of duty if you have decided to remain at home, or to enter seriously upon the investigation if you are undecided. I wish to influence some of those who have just commenced the last year of their course. Cannot some of you, dear brethren, join us here? With an enlarged view of the field— the world— a proper regard to the lost degraded condition of these heathen, but especially with [illegible]

Answered April 4th
1848

NEW-YORK 27 DEC 5 CTS

To
The Society of Inquiry
Theo. Seminary
Princeton
New Jersey
U.S.A.